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# Newsletter

## Number 01

3 February 2017



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

Welcome to the 2017 school year. A special welcome to our new families, to our international students, and to Mrs Lunn (new teacher in room 8) and Mrs Perris (new teacher aide junior school).

### Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website and are emailed on request (If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, and do not currently, please leave a message on the answerphone this weekend).

### Early Thanks

...to staff who put in extra hours over the holidays to prepare for the new school year.

...Helen Dorahy, Brenda Sinclair and Jim Palmer, for working hard over the holidays preparing school for our return.

...to parents who have already acted to ensure children are well prepared to start the school year. Nearly all children have their full stationery quota.

### People of the week

... children for a great start to 2017 ... a great attitude and a really positive buzz around the school.

... David Elias who completed the entire loop track (around the Hatea River) over the holidays on a unicycle. David, you might be the first person ever to do this.

### Term calendar ... *More to follow as dates come to hand!*

10 Feb	Rooms 1,3 and 5 beach trip
13 Feb	Senior school camp to Auckland
13 Feb	Middle school swimming trials
13 Feb	Rooms 2,4 and 6 beach trip
20 Feb	Senior school swimming trials
21 Feb	Senior options programme starts
24 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
25 Feb	School Country Fair
27/28 Feb	Parent / teacher / student conferences
2 March	Junior swimming sports (years 1 to 3)
3 March	Middle and senior swimming sports (years 4 to 8)
7 March	Interschool Swimming Sports (pp 9.3)
15 March	Year 7 and 8 tennis doubles
23 March	Kids Lit Quiz
24 March	Year 7 and 8 vaccinations
13 April	Final day of term 1

### Term dates 2017

Term 1	1 February to 13 April
Term 2	1 May to 7 July
Term 3	24 July to 29 September
Term 4	16 October to 15 December (to be confirmed)

### Country Fair - 25 February 2017

***Please support the Country Fair to be held here at Matarau School on Saturday 25 February. Plenty of fun activities are planned, games, competitions, stalls, food etc .. Please let extended family and neighbours know that this is an event they shouldn't miss. Much more to follow!***

### Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

To advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day with the reason for their absence (the Ministry of Education requires us to code each absence).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers. Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

### School Contributions /Trips and Events Fee

1. The Board is grateful for payment of **school contributions** and is committed to using these in ways which add value to your children's learning - in this regard it is a little unique as a donation, as we want you to get something concrete in return. Your contributions help to lower teacher / pupil ratios, improve access to digital devices, employ additional teacher aides, expand special needs hours, subsidise buses & visiting drama groups & so forth. Contributions may be paid in one instalment at year's commencement or quarterly.
2. **The trips and events fee** is a more efficient and convenient alternative to the usual collection of smaller amounts throughout the year. This fee covers entry to visiting drama groups, around one return bus trip each term, and miscellaneous event / trip costs. We select events / trips carefully and negotiate the best deals we can on your behalf. Participation in these events is encouraged but not compulsory. Please advise the school office if you do not want your child to participate in these events, in which case payment of the trips / events fee is not required as no cost is incurred by the school for their nonparticipation where this is known in advance.

**It is a reality that NZ schools are significantly underfunded by government, requiring schools to find their own sources of funding. While we are creative and diligent in seeking alternative sources of funding (with a determination to ask from parents no more than we need) your school contribution is a small but significant part of our funding. The board encourages payment of this contribution if you can and promises to use every cent wisely and in ways that add value to learning.**

**If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet. Kevin is also more than happy to discuss how the school determines its budget priorities and manages its spending with any interested person.**

### Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. You are welcome to source your stationery off site but take care to note the quality of items you purchase, also the price difference is sometimes minimal. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the school office.

### Sunhats

A reminder that school broad brimmed sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

### Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 27 and 28 February - **online booking will open shortly (more to follow)**.

Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

### Learning Support Programme

If your child is selected for placement in one of our learning support programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is expected.

### Punctuality

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call. Many thanks.

### Pool Keys

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$30 per family for the 2017 swimming season. If you have a key from last year it is important that you return this as soon as possible. Last year's keys will not work on the lock in 2017. No fence jumping please.

### Bus Times

Bus times and routes are as at the end of last year and are available on our website. Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advising us early of any areas of concern.

Parents are also reminded that motor vehicles are required to reduce their speed to 20km per hour when passing a stationary bus.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS DROP OFF TIMES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON LOADINGS- PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A MAJOR EVENT AT SCHOOL. ON SPORTS DAYS / CAMP WEEKS ETC. PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT TIMES TO VARY QUITE WIDELY.**

**Early Buses** - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 27 and 28 February because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

### Pick up of Children

1. Where possible parents are asked to pick their children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark (in the former case children are asked to wait by Room 12, heading down when they sight your car). This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.
2. If dropping children off in the upper car park please note the newly designated drop off zone. **Please do not park in the zone** and move on as quickly as you safely can.
3. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.
4. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:15PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office).

### End of Day Buses

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please -

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Drop by the office to let us know

This saves time searching for children and enables us to get buses underway on time.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection as soon as possible to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak (possible date 21 Feb). We are keen for offers of help and so, if you are able to help with inspections, please phone Helen here at school. - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

### **Request from our Librarian**

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school asap.

### **Swimming Trials**

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on **13 February** (years 4 to 6) or **20 February** (Years 7 and 8) please give Kevin a call. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this. *Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

### **Parent Helpers**

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please make contact with your child's teacher or drop by to the office. If you do assist in classrooms you will be asked to read over some guidelines and suggestions prior to starting. **It is absolutely critical that parent helpers respect the privacy of children and their families by ensuring that any observations or impressions are not discussed outside of the school.**

Please give Kevin a call if you wish to further discuss your potential involvement.

### **Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details**

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

### **Medications**

Medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. **Where we currently hold medication for your child, please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

### **Swimming**

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

### **Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)**

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning (and sometimes health) can result from simple things like ..

- .. **drinking plenty of water.** Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).
- ... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM (or earlier) is suggested for all children.
- .. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.
- .. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

### **Communications**

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair and will accommodate you where we can. Where an issue involves a dispute between children please remember that the school is required by law

to apply "natural justice" principles to every investigation, this involves hearing all sides and gathering good information. Try to avoid settling on conclusions in advance of a thorough investigation by the school as incidents always look different when placed in their wider context.

In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher (**not social media please**), but I am always available down the track, or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude, ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

Come in early with any problems .. **although remember that a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week may have entirely disappeared from their radar screen the following week.**

Equally, parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second or third or fourth piece of relevant information.

### Homework

.. information to follow within next week or two.

### Questions

We hope the newsletter keeps you informed of major issues throughout the year. Nevertheless you will have questions from time to time. Please feel free to phone the office at any time or to approach staff. We are more than happy to answer any questions and so ask...ask...ask. Remember the newsletter can be accessed same day on our school website.

### School contribution / ipads etc ... Year 4 to 8 students only

As in 2016 the board is suggesting a discounted school contribution **in the event that parents are providing their children with their own (take home) digital devices.** The contribution and fees request from was sent home yesterday. The Board is trying to keep costs as low as possible and give you options. We realise that there are divergent views out there on the role of digital technology in learning, and we want to be respectful of this fact. Circumstances and world views differ. The call is entirely yours. You should feel under no pressure in any direction. Our goal is simply to grow our competency in using digital technologies to enhance learning, and to ensure that children can access these technologies when they are needed. We promise that we will not be "throwing the baby out with the bathwater". We are also well aware of the need to limit time spent in front of devices and we are monitoring this as we move forward. We will set a date shortly to assist parents with setting up of devices, to review safety and security matters, and to talk about some of the amazing apps we are using to accelerate learning. So watch this space.

### Please find below an excerpt on devices from last year's final newsletter in case you missed this

... we are inviting parents (for children years 4 to 8) , to opt for ipads, laptops or chromebooks. In order to save you money longer term we suggest that, if your child is heading for KHS, you might like to consider chromebooks, if WGHS, then you might like to consider netbooks or laptops, if WBHS then a device of your choice. To keep your costs as low as possible, whatever your choice, we will make it work at our end.

We will continue to ensure that time on devices is not overdone, there will always be plenty of time for learning and interacting in a variety of ways.

**n.b.** parents should feel under no pressure to purchase devices for their children ... this is your call ... we will do our best to provide as many shared (non take home devices) as we can.

### Have your residential / contact details changed ?

... if so please let Helen know.

**If you formerly resided out of zone, and are now residing in zone, we are particularly keen to hear from you.** In zone children generate more funding ... which means more and better resources for students. So please let us know next week if your children were balloted into the school initially and have moved into our zone since then.

### Kapa haka survey

Towards the end of last year the school whanau group was approached to see if a school kappa haka group might be viable. Interested parents are encouraged to complete the online survey by the end of next week if possible please. Please contact the whanau group (or the school) with any questions.

### After School Care

The board has been approached to see if an ASC programme might be viable. A survey link will be sent to parents next week. We are particularly interested in those who would use this programme consistently for 3 or more days a week. Please keep your eyes open for the survey.

### Finally

Thanks for entrusting us with your children's education for another year. Plenty to get excited about this year... we will deepen our focus on writing, take personalised learning the next step, implement some special new initiatives for learners needing support, undertake a school wide focus on multiple intelligences and critical thinking and more. School wide te reo lessons will continue this year along with an expanded year 7 and 8 options programme ... including Spanish, Japanese, lab science, computer coding, sports science, European history through games and, of course, the Cambridge lower secondary programme. More to follow over the next few weeks. Welcome on board. Great to be back.

Regards  
Kevin Trewhella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them



## Community Notices

**2017 Chinese Spring Festival Variety Show** – 18<sup>th</sup> February, Forum North, Celebrate the year of the Rooster; Dinner & Show \$10. Limited tickets. Tickets from Noodle Canteen, Vine St or Happy Dragon Kamo.

**Northland Futsal Academy**, Aged 8-15 yrs, boys & Girls, Held at WBHS or KHS Contact Christian, 021 246 7328 for days / times / cost.

**LOST** – All Blacks Velcro Wallet with silver fern on front possibly near junior block end of November or December... had large amount of cash in it. If you saw it or know anything could you please contact Helen in the office.

**AgriKids** – Northern Region Final. Kamo High School, 18 March 2017. Enter a team for a fun day. Must be 8+ years old. Contact Chevon Horsford on 021 0235 7844 or checkout [agrikidsnz.co.nz](http://agrikidsnz.co.nz)

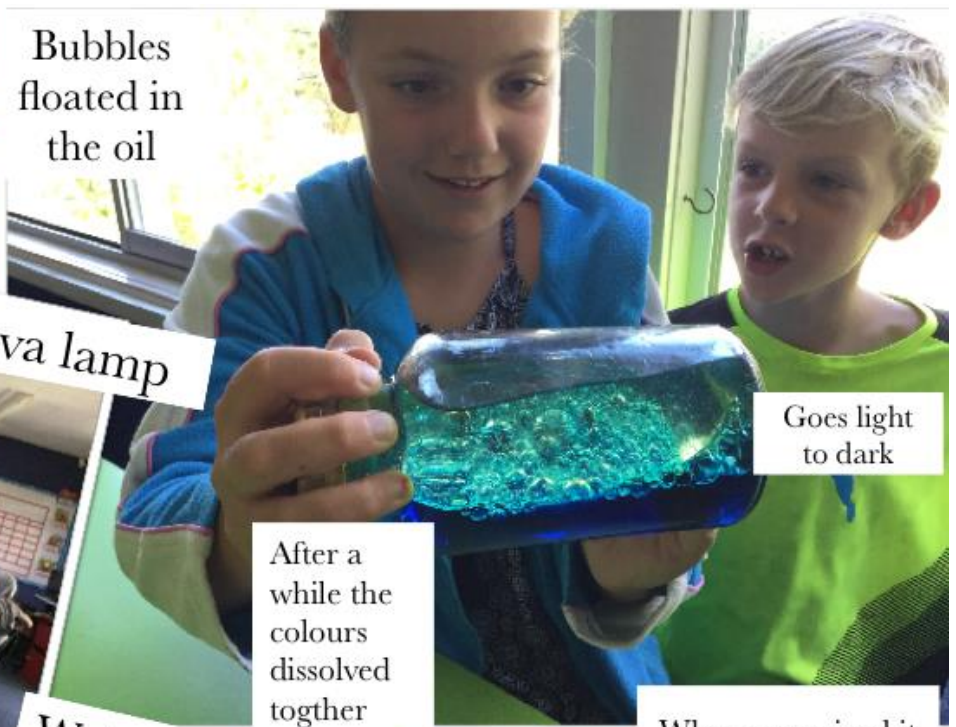
**Marua Annual Trail Ride** – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Jubilee Road Marua. Sign on from 8am, track opens 9am. Contact Scott or Suzanne 433 7210 with queries.

**End Polio Now – Walk Because You Can** – 8pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February, gold coin donation glow stick. Canopy Bridge. This is a Rotary Whangarei South Club organised event. Contact [sandra@peoplepotential.co.nz](mailto:sandra@peoplepotential.co.nz) for more info.





Bubbles  
floated in  
the oil



Like a lava lamp

Goes light  
to dark

After a  
while the  
colours  
dissolved  
together



Changed  
colour

Water  
tornado



We thought it  
would bubble up  
and explode



The Water  
and oil  
didn't mix  
together

Oil turned green  
overnight



Ocean in a  
bottle  
Room 9

Looked  
like the  
ocean  
was  
moving



PIC•COLLAGE

# School Lunches



**Mondays** - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice. Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

**Wednesdays** - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce. Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

**Fridays** - \$4.00 : Hot Mince Pie, Jumbo Sausage Roll or Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar) and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00. Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday. See order form attached to this week's newsletter if you want to bulk order for term 4.

## FRIDAY SCHOOL LUNCHES

- ☺ Below is an order form for **Friday** lunches.
- ☺ These can be ordered for the term in advance, or weekly if desired.
- ☺ **Please have weekly orders placed at the school office by the Wednesday to receive an order the following Friday.**
- ☺ Please make cheques payable to Matarau School.

Thanks for supporting our fundraiser.

## WEEKLY ORDER FORM – Term 1 2017

Child \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00  
\_\_\_ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00  
\_\_\_ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00  
\_\_\_ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

Child \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00  
\_\_\_ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00  
\_\_\_ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00  
\_\_\_ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

TERM ORDER - Total Amount Owing For Term 1 - 8 weeks

Items @ \$4.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ weeks =

Items @ \$5.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ weeks =

In the case of a child's absence from school and instructions to the contrary, we are unable to guarantee a refund or provide a lunch on a subsequent week.